

THE BEAN CASE

More Mysterious Than Ever—The Case Up on Trial For Administration.

A New Set of Claimants—This Time From Far Off New Jersey.

Special Telegram to the Statesman.

BONHAM, March 26.—The much talked of, notorious Tom Bean case was called in the district court today. Lawyers, witnesses and claimants from all parts of the United States were present. The case was on trial for administration, on appeal from the last term of court, booked W. W. Russell vs. P. Howard. In the county court trial Howard was granted letters of administration on evidence of relation to the deceased millionaire. In this trial Howard was opposed by W. W. Russell, merchant of this place, who based his claims to administer estate upon the fact of being a reputable citizen and a disinterested party, and being urged to contest Howard's rights by another set of claimants. By agreement, the appeal was continued to next August term of the district court, on the grounds that plaintiff wanted a jury trial, which could not be granted without great loss of time in securing qualified men for that position. No case in the state has ever attracted so much attention, owing to peculiarities and complications before and after the death of Colonel Bean, which occurred in this city last July. Deceased was by long odds the wealthiest man in north Texas, his estate being valued at \$3,000,000. He came to this country as an early day, and by acting in the capacity of a surveyor, he managed to accumulate several thousand acres of land, which have increased in value with the progress of the country, until the estate is now one of the most valuable in the state. Bean was ostensibly a bachelor, and spent the greater part of his life in a small one-room cabin near the public square, where, with the exception of three or four colored servants, former slaves, he lived in utter seclusion. Very few persons can claim the distinction of having gained the confidence of the eccentric bachelor; consequently little or nothing was known of his antecedents. At the time of his death no one could be found who knew and therefore speculation ran high as to what disposition would be made of the property. It was only a short time before claimants from every state in the union, who had learned the history of his death through special and associated press, began coming in. One of these claimants, who was thought to have a pretty strong case, is J. W. Saunders, of Oxford, Miss., whose story created quite a sensation. Saunders claims that Tom Bean was his own brother; that the name Bean was assumed about forty years ago to conceal his identity, as he had committed a murder in Mississippi; that this explained the retiring disposition of Bean during his long residence at this place. H. P. Howard, postmaster of San Antonio, claims to be a cousin of the deceased and jointly with Mrs. Sarah A. Dow, of Washington, D. C., ones next claim for the administration of the estate. S. J. Galbraith, who was probably the most intimate friend deceased ever had, at this place a short time ago, filed an application to probate a supposed last will of deceased, in which the estate was bequeathed to Galbraith, Kate Knight Edwards and Belle Shortridge, of Kaufman county, Texas; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Cruz, of California; and the colored servants respectively. It was thought that no more claims of importance would be presented until it became generally known to-day that an attorney named Hayman, of Princeton, N. J., was in town, who represented claimants of quite a different character from any heretofore brought forward. His story is, that a man named Tom Saunders married in New Jersey in 1837, separated from his wife and left there about 1842. Two daughters were born of this marriage with whom their father kept up a correspondence after leaving New Jersey. These letters received from their father, were all written from Texas, some of them signed Saunders and others Benn and Oliver. The wife and daughters were convinced that a mystery was connected with the life of the husband and father, but exactly what they never discovered. The last letter received from him was dated Marshall, Texas, and signed Tom Benn. A postscript was added, in which Benn stated he was going to Bonham, Texas, which was then a village of 200 or 300 people. Attorney Hayman brought these letters with him; also, a photograph of the man supposed to be Benn. The handwriting of the letters is similar to that of deceased, but there is little resemblance in the picture. Mr. Hayman stated to your reporter that he was here only for investigation at present; that if the man J. W. Saunders, who claims to be the brother of deceased, was likely to make anything of a case he would present the claims of his clients, as the cases are almost parallel. He says his clients are certain that Millionaire Tom Benn was their father and husband, and yet, unless they are sure of success, will not push their claim, as they are not able to furnish funds for continued suits. The citizens of this part of the state would be glad for litigation in the case to cease and some disposition be made of the property, for, as it is the growth of parts of the county and town is retarded by vacant blocks and tracts of land, which can't be settled while the case is in court.

BROKE JAIL.

A Lot of Prisoners Emigrate From the Fort Worth Calaboose.

Special Telegram to the Statesman.

FORT WORTH, March 26.—Last night the prisoners confined in the city calaboose, fifteen in number, concluding that the accommodations were not what they should be, determined to go out in search of better quarters. They picked loose an iron bar in one of the windows, and, through the aperture thus made, the entire lot made their escape. The docket in the recorder's court this morning was large, but few defendants to answer. Sheriff Shipp this morning searched the jail in cells No. 1 and 2, where are confined a number of desperate prisoners from other counties, who have been brought here for safe keeping. He found five highly tempered steel saws of a character that would enable a man to saw out of the jail in a very short time.

SUPREME COURT.

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EN ROUTE TO DENVER.

Departure of the First Section of the Great Denver Excursion.

Special Telegram to the Statesman.

FORT WORTH, March 26.—This morning at 7:30 o'clock the first of the four sections of the grand excursion over the Fort Worth and Denver railroad for Denver, Col., pulled out from the union depot, and the other three sections, the last being the regular train, left at short intervals afterwards. The last train left the union depot at 9:30 o'clock. All the trains were well loaded and will pick up at the different stations along the line recruits, who will be in numbers sufficient to load all four trains to overflowing. E. E. Chase, president of the Fort Worth board of trade, has been instrumental in getting Texas business men to take an interest in the excursion. His party from this city outside of cattlemen, comprised the following representative citizens: W. F. Brittingham, of the Fort Worth Gazette; Walter Maddox, Charles Swasey, W. S. Pendleton, John C. Talbott, Hyde Jennings, M. B. Lloyd, E. W. Taylor, Robert McCarty, T. A. Tidball, T. B. Burbridge, Glen Walker, Tuck Boaz, Peter Smith, Zeno Ross, Thomas Roach, Joe Littlejohn, Wm. Lakey, G. P. Meade, W. R. Sawyer and W. C. E. Maynard and wife, G. Marshall, J. R. Woods, John Shelton, W. F. Sommerhill, A. S. Nicholson, John Olson, S. M. Glassgow, H. Dahlman, F. W. Mitchell, J. Brown, H. Walker and wife, J. S. Andrus, George Tandy, J. Calhoun, J. M. Henderson, H. H. Campbell and Colonel Suggs. Besides the above from the city there were a large number from other towns east, west and south, who came in on the trains last night and this morning. The delegation was a good one, and Texas will be well represented at the grand celebration in Denver. Over 450 passengers were on board the four trains, and the number will be swelled to over 500 before Denver is reached.

GROM SAN ANGELO.

Special Telegram to the Statesman.

SAN ANGELO, March 26.—Capt. Wm. Scott left this morning with his company of rangers to establish headquarters at Ballinger for the present. His departure is deeply regretted by the people here. Rev. A. S. Rector, of the M. E. church, south, is conducting a protracted meeting with encouraging results.

Col. C. W. Hobbs, a prominent sheep man, sold 400 muttons to-day at \$3 a head. The San Angelo wool committee are preparing to handle over 1,000,000 pounds of wool this spring again, and the usual inducements—free storage, handling and freight to Ballinger—will be extended to the wool producers. The high prices paid at this market last spring and fall will secure most of the wool in a radius of seventy-five miles.

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You can't help liking them, they are so very small, and their action is so very perfect. Only one pill a dose. Carter's Little Liver Pills. Try them.

THE STATE.

Fort Worth Gets the Convention to Elect Delegates to the St. Louis Convention.

San Antonio and Austin Left Out in the Cold—Other Texas Items.

Special Telegram to the Statesman.

DALLAS, March 27.—This has been a memorable day in Dallas. Never were there such struggles for state conventions as were made to-day by Fort Worth, Dallas, Lampasas, Austin and San Antonio. Delegations were present from all these cities, and they worked for their towns with an earnestness that was truly commendable; they only wanted one convention, and they specified the one they wanted, and on the first ballot it was bestowed upon them. Dallas, after the first reverse, went for the state convention in earnest. San Antonio was looked upon as sure of getting one of the conventions, but she was handicapped by wanting the earth, and not having enough men here to ask for it. Ferguson did all he could, but to no avail. Austin had Mayor Nalle here, and he made a gallant fight, but the committee thought Austin had enough in the new capitol and the drill, and she was denied this time. At this hour most of the members of the committee have returned home, and they, with all who attended this meeting, will remember the occasion for years to come.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

DALLAS, March 27.—The democratic state executive committee met in the parlors of the Grand Windsor this morning, pursuant to call by Chairman Henry Exall. The committee was called to order by the chairman, and Will Lambert, of Austin, acted as secretary.

The following members answered to roll call:

Tom A. Elgin, Marshall; R. D. Harrold, Texarkana; E. W. Terhune, Greenville; H. N. Cate, Mineola; B. C. Carrington, Marquez; Mose W. Garnett, Houston; Henry C. Mayer, Galveston; C. J. Battle, Wharton; T. S. Reese, Hempstead; R. H. Phelps, La Grange; J. L. Terrell, K. R. Craig, McKinney; J. H. Garnett, Gainesville; B. Morris, Rhine Rogers, Waco; Charles Beal, Lampasas; B. C. Giles, Manor; J. M. Rushing, Baird. The roll was read by the secretary. On motion of Mr. Rushing, the committee decided to select the time of holding the convention to nominate delegates to the national convention at St. Louis. Mr. Terhune suggested the fourth Tuesday of May as the time. Terhune's motion, naming the fourth Tuesday in May as the time was carried. On motion the committee then went into the selection of the place, and representatives of the cities asking the convention, were allowed ten minutes to present the claims of their respective towns. Only three cities appeared as candidates for the May convention—Dallas, Fort Worth and San Antonio. Colonel William Hughes was introduced before the committee in behalf of Dallas. Mr. Geo. W. Fieger, of Fort Worth, presented the claims of the Panther City. Mr. Otis Eaton also spoke in favor of Fort Worth. Mr. William Ferguson, of San Antonio, was next introduced. He spoke of the historic associations of the Alamo City, and its facilities for entertainment, and the absorbing desire of its people to entertain the democracy of Texas.

This closed the nominations, and the ballot was proceeded with as follows:

Fort Worth, 10; Dallas, 5; San Antonio, 4. Amid great applause Chairman Exall declared Fort Worth as the place of holding the convention to nominate delegates to the national convention.

Mr. Giles, of Travis, then moved that the Fort Worth convention, in addition to selecting delegates, also choose the state electoral ticket, thus relieving the state convention of this burden. Carried.

On motion the committee then proceeded to select the time of holding the convention to nominate the state ticket.

Mr. Terhune moved that the fourth Tuesday in August be selected.

Mr. Rushing moved, as a substitute, that the second Tuesday in August be chosen as the time. Carried.

The representatives of the cities asking the convention were then invited to address the committee.

Hon. Joseph Nalle, mayor of Austin, presented the claims of that city in a short speech. He said that the city of Austin belonged to the state, and the democratic convention would give the people of Texas an opportunity of viewing their own. Austin did not want the first convention, because she would have her hands full with the dedication of the new capitol and the great drill.

Mr. Giles, the committee man from the twenty-fourth district, also spoke in favor of Austin.

Mayor Connor then appeared in behalf of Dallas, and his speech was one of the features of the meeting, and it made votes for Dallas.

The chairman then introduced Mr. Louis Wood, of Lampasas, who spoke fervently for what he termed the Saratoga of Texas. He made a splendid speech. Lampasas was strong for a while until the breaking up came.

It was then decided after the third ballot, that the lowest town should be dropped, and the ballot was proceeded with as follows:

First ballot—Austin, 1; Dallas, 6; Lampasas, 5; San Antonio, 0.

Second ballot—Austin, 6; Dallas, 7; Lampasas, 6.

An adjournment was then taken till 2:30 p. m.

The committee was called to order, and after some discussion the ballot for the state convention was resumed.

Fifth ballot—Dallas, 7; Austin, 6; Lampasas, 6.

The eleventh ballot was ordered, and Dallas was successful by a vote of eleven to eight. Business was resumed and finished in a few minutes.

On motion, Mr. Garnett, of Gainesville, and Mr. Morris, of Rhine, were appointed to act with the citizens of Fort Worth in arranging for the May convention, and

Mr. Terrell, of Terrell, and Mr. Cate, of Mineola, were appointed to act with the citizens of Dallas in arranging for the August convention.

The chairman in a neat speech congratulated the committee on their work and the harmony that prevailed in their deliberations.

He invoked their aid in perpetuating the principles of democracy; and the committee adjourned to meet in Dallas on Monday, before the second Tuesday in August.

DOUBT AS TO THE MAN.

A CHIEF PROTESTS HIS INNOCENCE OF A CRIME ALLEGED AGAINST HIM.

Special Telegram to the Statesman.

PALESTINE, March 27.—Mr. A. Todd, of Nechesville precinct, left for Centerville, Tenn., last night in charge of Bill Fincher, arrested two weeks ago by Justice Capps, on suspicion of his being Henry Humble, who is charged with having raped and murdered a colored girl at Ennis, Tenn., in February, 1887. A belief has been gaining ground here for several days to the effect that Fincher's protestations of his innocence of the crime are true. The prisoner is in receipt of a letter from his father in Georgia declaring his ability to produce letters from his son showing it was impossible for him to have been at the scene of the murder, or anywhere in Tennessee at the time it was committed. It is said that the descriptions of the man who committed the murder, and of Fincher, have been found, on close inspection, to differ in some respects.

San Antonio Wants the Printers' Home.

Special Telegram to the Statesman.

SAN ANTONIO, March 27.—At a meeting of the members of the San Antonio Typographical union to-day, it was decided to elect a representative to attend the convention at Kansas City, in June, of the International union, to present San Antonio's advantages for the location of the proposed International Printers' home. The West End Town company offer to donate a site for the building, and committees of citizens are now canvassing the city for subscriptions to a fund to be given the home.

NOT GUILTY OF MURDER.

A Verdict in the Stillwell case—The Porter Killing.

Special Telegram to the Statesman.

BRYAN, March 27.—The case of the State of Texas vs. Julien Stillwell, who was charged with killing James Porter, was decided to-day, after occupying the attention of the court for nearly a week. The jury in the above case brought in a verdict of "not guilty." There was, at this juncture, yet another case against him for killing Cleora Porter, James' brother, on the same eventful day, July 23, 1881. The state's attorney was in the act of submitting a motion of nolle prosequi, when the defendant's counsel suggested that a verdict of "not guilty" would be preferred, whereupon a jury was soon impaneled and instructed, on recommendation by the state's council, that there was not sufficient testimony to convict Stillwell in this case, and from a charge of the court to the same effect, the jury remained in the box and rendered the verdict which set at liberty the man about whom there has been so much excitement since his capture, and in whose case there has been so much interest taken for the last two terms of the district court at this place. His mother, Mrs. J. J. Neely, was in attendance almost all the while during his trial, and when the last case was decided, kindly thanked and shook hands with each of the jurymen who rendered the liberating verdict.

Death of Mr. Ledbetter.

Special Telegram to the Statesman.

LA GRANGE, March 27.—An old citizen and good man died here in the person of the Hon. Hamilton Ledbetter. He was in his 88th year, and although his death was not unexpected, his loss as an influential citizen of Fayette county will be deeply felt. He came to Texas from Tennessee in 1839, and was an honored citizen of this county for the past forty-five years. Although never an office seeker, he represented this county in the constitutional convention of 1866, and subsequently in the state senate. His name was intimately connected with the progress of this county for near a half a century, and unusual sorrow is felt at the loss of a man so highly respected and esteemed by all classes of our citizens.

Austin Gets Left.

Special Telegram to the Statesman.

FORT WORTH, March 27.—There is great rejoicing here to-night over the news that Fort Worth has been selected as the place for holding the state democratic convention to elect delegates to the St. Louis convention. The time is fixed for the fourth Tuesday in May. The state committee decided to have the state electoral ticket selected at the same time. It is expected that 3,000 democrats will be present. The state nominating convention was appointed for August 14, at Dallas.

Fort Worth Gets Her Bridge.

Special Telegram to the Statesman.

FORT WORTH, March 27.—The question about the great bridge was settled by the city council to-day by a vote of six for and two against. This question has occupied the attention of the people for four months past. The bridge will be a magnificent iron structure, 350 feet long and 84 feet wide, and is built over the Trinity to overcome the steep ascent of the high bluff. Work will begin in a short time.

From San Angelo.

Special Telegram to the Statesman.

SAN ANGELO, March 27.—Parties seeking to invest in and around the Concho country, the garden spot of Texas, can obtain a free pass from Ballinger to San Angelo and return by applying to Frank Lerch at this place. The real estate agents inform your reporter that the ordinary methods of selling property are too slow for San Angelo; it is being bought and sold by wire, large numbers of transfers having been made in this manner in the last few days.

A carload of cotton seed has been ordered for free distribution among the farmers of Tom Green county this spring. The large quantities of fruit trees planted last winter are reported as doing well. The recent cold weather has not injured the fruit crops.

BOULANGER.

The Persecuted General is Elected to the French Congress, Department of Aisne.

Emperor Frederick's Condition. Reply of Empress Victoria to the Societies.

ENGLAND.

THE EMPEROR BETTER.

LONDON, March 27.—It is known that Emperor Frederick is improving, owing to the removal of a large piece of diseased cartilage. Such a thing has never been known to occur in a case of cancerous disease. Doctor Waldeyer will examine the mass removed.

THE CHANCELLOR'S BUDGET.

LONDON, March 27.—Goschen, chancellor of the exchequer, introduced the budget in the house of commons last night. The revenue for the last year was £15,500,000 more than estimated. Goschen estimates the total expenditures for the coming year at £36,910,000; estimated revenue for the same period, £39,287,000. Goschen asked the house to pass a resolution reducing an income tax of one penny and increasing the duty on wine to five shillings per dozen bottles. In order to accomplish this reduction of the income tax he also proposes to place a six penny stamp tax on contract notes, a £1 duty on all pleasure horses and £5 on race horses. The bill meets with great favor.

DYING OF STARVATION.

LONDON, March 27.—Thousands of persons are dying of starvation in the inundated districts of Hungary.

DEATH OF A SULTAN.

LONDON, March 27.—The Sultan of Zanzibar is dead.

GERMANY.

THE EMPEROR'S WILL.

BERLIN, March 26.—The late emperor's will shows that his total savings do not exceed \$1,250,000. A large proportion of the property is left to increase the crown treasury's general fund, established by his father. The remainder is divided among the Empress Augusta, Emperor Frederick and the grand Duchess of Baden. Babelsberg castle and Coblenz palace are bequeathed to the Empress Augusta. There are minor legacies.

OVERFLOW OF THE ELBE.

BERLIN, March 27.—The banks of the Elbe are flooded for a distance of many miles. Hundreds of villages are submerged. An enormous amount of damage has been done and many lives lost.

EMPEROR VICTORIA.

BERLIN, March 27.—The Empress Victoria, replying to addresses presented to her by associations of which she is patroness, says her foremost and most sacred duty will be the care of her suffering husband. She is conscious of the task devolving upon her as queen and empress, and will accomplish it to the best of her ability. At the same time she is reminded that she has other social duties. The moral and intellectual education of women, the sanitary condition of the laboring classes and the improvement of the facilities by which women may earn a livelihood. The noblest vocation of a princess, she says, is untiring activity in the work of ameliorating the suffering of the classes. Owing to the difficulty of her tasks she is doubtful whether she will succeed as well as her heart desires.

EDITORIAL OPINIONS.

BERLIN, March 27.—The North German Gazette (Bismarck's organ), commenting on the elections in France, says the votes of the French people tend more and more toward the dangerous alternative of reaction or revolution. Every political manifestation strengthens the tendency to discredit the government.

The Kreuz Zeitung says: "The end is near, but it is hard to say who will give the present regime in France its death-blow."

CONCURRED WITH BISMARCK.

BERLIN, March 27.—The National Zeitung says that at a recent meeting of the cabinet at Charlottenburg Prince Bismarck explained the foreign situation. Emperor Frederick fully concurred in his views and proposals, and especially thanked Bismarck.

FRANCE.

THE CASE OF M. WILSON.

PARIS, March 26.—The court of appeals has rendered a decision in the case of M. Wilson, who appealed from the decision of the lower court, which found him guilty of complicity in the decorations scandal, and sentenced him to two years' imprisonment and to pay a fine of 3,000 francs, and be deprived of his civil rights for five years. The court of appeals reverses the decision of the lower court and acquits Wilson of the charges against him. The other persons tried with Wilson on similar charges were also acquitted.

The judgment of the court of appeals severely condemns the act imputed to M. Wilson and others, but declares that the existing laws do not apply to the offenses charged against them.

BOULANGER'S CASE DECIDED.

PARIS, March 26.—The hearing before the court of inquiry in the case of General Boulanger was held to-day. Counsel for General Boulanger occupied but ten minutes in stating the defense. General Boulanger then departed for the residence of M. Laquerre. The court afterwards gave its judgment, but the nature of the decision will not be divulged until it has been submitted to President Carnot. It is reported that the court decided against General Boulanger. The cabinet will discuss the decision to-morrow. The crowd which gathered cheered Boulanger when he departed from the court.

RETIRED BOULANGER.

PARIS, March 27.—On the proposal of the minister of war, President Carnot, acting on the unanimous advice of the officers who conducted the court martial, has signed a decree placing General Boulanger on the retired list of the army. The proposal had previously been considered by a council of ministers.

WHAT THE TEMPS SAY.

PARIS, March 27.—The Temps, referring to the election, attributes the success of

General Boulanger, not to the existence of a revolutionary majority, but to the increase of discontent with the government. It says a resolute majority alone could change the situation, and that General Boulanger cannot command such a majority.

BOULANGER ELECTED.

PARIS, March 27.—The election to fill vacancies in the chamber of deputies were held Sunday in the departments of Rhone and Aisne. Felix Pyatt was returned from Rhone, while General Boulanger received a plurality in the department of Aisne.

ITALY.

THE WAR IN AFRICA.

ROME, March 27.—General Marsena telegraphs that large numbers of Abyssinians have arrived within four miles of Saata, and that an attack is expected any moment.

BARTELS BREAK.

Further Testimony Before the House Committee on Agriculture.

WASHINGTON, March 27.—In the house committee on agriculture this morning Hon. Asher Caruth, of Kentucky, presented a protest of the pork packers of Louisville, Ky., against the testimony of W. G. Bartle. It was placed on file.

In reply to a question by the chairman, Mr. Caruth stated that he had a general knowledge of the reputation of farmers throughout Kentucky.

Chairman—"Do you believe in the sweeping charge made before this committee, that the farmers are in the habit of sending diseased hogs to market?"

Caruth—"I believed that of Kentucky farmers I would cease to be a resident of that state."

Mr. Funston, of Kansas, a member of the committee, in name of the fairness of Kansas, protested against the charges of Bartle. He then asked Caruth what he characterized as a hypothetical question as follows: "If a witness before this committee should state that for eighteen years he had followed the business of chasing or slaughtering piggy cows and cholera hogs, turning them into bacon and selling them to people; that, at the age of 61, his conscience hurt him and he quit the business; and that, afterward, he endeavored to put his son in some other business. If you were a member of this committee would you consider him too big a villain and scoundrel to be believed, even under oath?"

Caruth—"Well, that is rather a sweeping question. I would hate to believe that such things as that exist."

Mr. Carl Prier, of Chicago, resumed